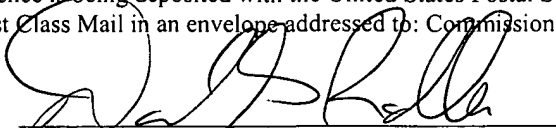


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Daniel G. Radler, Reg. No. 43,028



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Duane V. Byerly et al.
Serial No.: 10/033,794
Filed: January 3, 2002
For: FLEXIBLE COUPLING
Art Unit: 3679
Examiner: Binda, G.
Att'y. Docket: 790063.00007

12/18-14 is prob lwr.
12-5-03
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Amendment

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This paper is in response to the Office Action mailed on September 30, 2003.

In the Specification

Please amend the third paragraph beginning on page 4, as follows:

--Links 13A-~~13E~~13F have apertures at their opposite ends. These links are of a composite material, such as thermosetting fiberglass ~~expoxy~~epoxy. They are arranged in a stack with the apertures at one of their respective ends in alignment to form the central part of the bore of a fastening means as illustrated in Figure 2 in the case of the fastening means 12B. A first link 13A of the fastening means 12B extends to the fastening means 12A adjacent to the fastening means 12B counter-clockwise as viewed in Figure 1, a second link 13B extends to the fastening means 12C adjacent to the fastening means 12B in the clockwise direction as viewed in Figure 1 and so on in alternate sequence. The opposite ends of the links 13A-~~13E~~13F are interleaved with other similar links extending between the fastening means 12A and 12F and between fastening means 12C and 12D to form the central parts of the bores of the fastening means 12A and 12C.—

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Please amend the second full paragraph on page 5, as follows:

--Each fastening means 12A-12F is completed by a pair of washers, such as indicated at 14A, 14B in Figure 2, the washers being located at opposite ends of the associated stack of links, such as 13A-~~13E~~13F, protruding from parallel faces 23A, 23B of the body 11.--

Please amend the fifth full paragraph on page 5, as follows:

--In the preferred embodiment illustrated, the bores of the fastening means 12A-12F are formed exclusively by apertures of links, such as 13A-~~13E~~13F, and a pair of washers, such as 14A, 14B, all coaxially aligned. However, a bush may extend through the whole or a part of the bore, being surrounded by the links and washers.—

Please amend the last paragraph beginning on page 5, as follows:

--Links 13A-~~13E~~13F with apertures at their opposite ends are merely exemplary of the ways in which adjacent fastening means 12A-12F may be interconnected. Instead of, or in addition to, the link strands, for example, resin-impregnated strands, may be between bushes constituting all or part of the bore of each fastening means.--